

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club

Plack 14-84A



Spring 2000

Volume 8 Number 1

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The C4 Newsletter Volume 8 Number 1

A quarterly publication of

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Angel Pietri at the address listed above. Dues are \$20-regular, \$10 for junior members (under 18), \$25-1st class mailing of newsletter, \$400 for Life Membership (or 4 quarterly payments of \$100).



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or to

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Classified Ads

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2"x 7-1/2"
1/2 page	30	45	75	4-1/2"x 3-3/4"

If you want to include a photo with your ad at an additional \$10. Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Please send check with your ad. We can accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines.



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Editor's Notes and Treasury Report

Angel Pietri

By this time most of you should be aware of the results of the recent Stack's auction of the George Perkins' collection. The price of quality colonial material continues its upward trajectory. Is this a passing trend? Maybe, but we have been hearing this for several years now and it does not stop. The number of collectors going after a very scarce commodity appears to be the driving force. And as long as this is the case, the trend will continue. So, good luck to all!

This issue will also contain the ballot for our next president (see next section). I hope this brings a better response than the request for nominations. Do not forget to cast your vote!

Economically speaking, the club has had another good year, with membership growing slightly to 321 members, a good auction commission, and successful book sales. Our current balance is approximately \$46,100. Of this money, \$36,000 are in a money market account and the rest in the operating account. This offers more opportunities for the future. If you have any suggestions for possible club projects, contact the board members with your thoughts.



Election of Officers for the 2000-2002 Period

All the club's officers are supposed to be up for election this spring, to take over their jobs at this coming summer's ANA convention. However, we did not receive any nominations from the membership. Either everyone is very happy with the current directors, or possibly (I would hate to think so) nobody cares.

In any event, the board nominated two people as candidates for next president. Both have been very active within the club, and would

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make excellent candidates. Dennis will query the regional representatives and officers to see if they wish or are willing to continue in their present roles. If not, replacements will be found.

The candidates for president are:

- 1- Dr. James Rosen**
- 2- Ray Williams**

A ballot form is included in the back, which can be torn out or photocopied. Please send your ballots to John Lorenzo, the club secretary, as soon as possible. The winner will be announced in the summer issue of the newsletter.

If Ray Williams is elected, a replacement will be found as Region 2 representative to the board.



2000 Dues Notice

As usual this time of year, My first call for dues goes out. Some of you have already paid for this year (2000). Check your mailing label to verify your status. The two digits after your name represent the year you are paid up too.

Remember that this is only the first call. If you joined late in the year and feel you should not pay 'til later, it is OK. Subsequent issues will carry reminders, and as long as you are paid up by September you will not be dropped from the membership list. However the sooner everyone pays the less work for me, so I appreciate early payments. Thank you all for your support of the club.



Colonial Happening at 2000 EAC Convention

The following colonial coppers will be featured at 7 PM on Thursday, 4/6/00

St. Patrick Farthings: Any farthing NOT photographed by Bill Noyes for John Griffie's book. Any grade of Breen 206 (nimbus) and B214-B218. Quality examples of Breen 208 and B211-213.

New Jersey Coppers: Goiter variety, obverse 37

Primitive style British counterfeits: halfpennies or farthings

Connecticut Coppers: 1785: 4.3-D, 4.4-D; 1786: 2.1-D.3; 1787: 15-F, 40-N, 50-F; 1788: 4.1-K, 12.1-E

In addition, there will be a club general meeting between 3-5:00 PM on Saturday.

As always, help needed behind the tables. Please contact Dennis or Michael Wierzbowski [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



NJ 20-N from C4 Auction Lost

Once again, we are sad to have to report that a coin disappeared from the boxes of auction lots prior to our November auction. In this case it was lot 253, a F18 NJ 20-N with a large scratch on the shield. It is possible that it was given out in error during the auction lot pickup the day following the auction. If you discover this copper among your auction lots, please return to Bob Grellman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Library Committee

At the C4 meeting in November, a call went out to the membership for volunteers to work on various groups and committees to increase involvement and improve our club. I have volunteered to work with Steve Tanenbaum, chairman of the Library Committee, to find out what you, the members of C4 would like our library to be. Below is a general list of ideas. This is not a complete list and any and all comments and suggestions are welcome. We will publish a summary of the responses in a future newsletter so, please make your suggestions known today.

1. What to include: reference books specific to colonial coins books relating to technology of the period, books about famous figures associated with colonial coins, historical books relating to everyday life in the 18th century, other history books of the era.
2. Suggestions on specific books you would like to borrow.
3. How long should the loan period be?
4. Is there interest in publishing a summary (two or three paragraphs) on books you have read dealing with Colonial history that would be of interest to other members but would not be bought by the library?
5. Any other types of material you would like the library to have, i.e. photographs, auction catalogs, etc.
6. Do you have any material that you would like to donate to the C4 library?

Please send all responses to:

Leo Shane



C4 Items for Sale

The Copper Coins of Vermont And Those Bearing The Vermont Name by Tony Carlotto

Regular edition price \$50 (add \$3 for shipping)
Send orders to:

John Lorenzo


By special order, Deluxe Hardbound Leather edition
with enlarged photo plates of all varieties \$200
Send orders for this edition to:

Dan Freidus


C4 Convention Items for Sale

Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50
Hardbound Third and Fourth C4 Convention Catalogues \$50/ea.
Call or write Dennis if you are interested.

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Dennis, payable to C4, at the address below.

Fugio Plates (NEW)

Several copies of the Fugio obverses and reverses will be made available for sale at \$25 each set. They consist of three 8"X10" plates made from the original negatives used by Eric Newman for his book. They were made available to C4 courtesy of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. If you want a copy, contact Dennis Wierzb.

The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact me at the address below.

Dennis Wierzba



Letters to the Editor

(Via e-mail)

I read with "some interest, and not a little dismay" Michael Hodder's letter to the editor in the Winter 1999 issue of the C4 Newsletter. The tone of his letter was arrogant and self-righteous which I find to be offensive.

My response to his comments concerning my analysis of the Walter Mould letter of February 20, 1784 is as follows. First, I consider my observations to be logical reasoning based upon know facts, not "wishful thinking" as Michael believes. Second, Michael states that "I can't believe that there was only one malter or brewer resident in the west of England in the 1780's." The real concern here is how many malters/brewers from the west of England were resident in New York City in 1784. Not many, I would think, and Samuel Atlee does fit these criteria.

Numismatic research of the state coinage era is difficult, at best, because of the shortage of extant records from that period. And if primary source evidence is thrown out because it isn't conclusive in itself, as Michael seems to want to do, then progress may never be

made in our understanding of this interesting period of our numismatic heritage.

Sincerely,
Gary Trudgen



I appreciate Michael Hodder's response to my concerns about his disagreement with Walter Breen as to the undertypes of four NJ 73-aa's. I found it curious that Breen could have mistaken four different undertypes all as Georgivs Triumpho tokens.

Since Dennis Wierzbowski's discovery of one such GT undertype, perhaps this disagreement might be considered only obscure trivia to some. Although I, myself, am not a NJ coppers enthusiast, since Mr. Hodder has offered to someday present evidence contrary to Breen's statement, I will await this presentation with the patience of Job. Regardless of my personal interests, I still can also appreciate the effort that Michael Hodder will likely put into this project.

Since Mr. Hodder's position on the origin of the Georgivs Triumpho token still seems a bit unclear to me, perhaps someday we might also find ourselves discussing the relative relevance of punch linkage and design style. I must admit that I am somewhat baffled by Michael's seemingly differing views on these diagnostics. I am currently conducting letter punch and design style studies among various groups of counterfeit British halfpence and have found these diagnostics to be very relevant. I hope to also someday make connections to the token and button manufacturers in England who also produced the Evasions and Conder tokens. Of course such studies have already been published, to which I would refer readers to CNL-100, pp. 1515-1520.

On another note, I thoroughly enjoyed reading "Who Was Robert Morris?" by Angel Pietri. As the Winter '99 C4 Newsletter arrived just before Christmas, I couldn't help but parallel the life of Robert Morris with that of the character played by Jimmy Stewart in "It's a

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Wonderful Life.” Perhaps we should reflect on what and if this country would be had there never been a Robert Morris. It’s sad that a man of such financial genius and wizardry should finally succumb to opulence and speculation in the end. If only Morris had had a guardian angel!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Byron K. Weston



I believe a few words are in order concerning personal comments on numismatic research. Most articles in the Newsletter are assembled by researchers who offer conclusions from factual information and present “a certain point of view” or theory on a given subject. These articles are interesting and most important, thought provoking.

Follow-up letters often present critical observations which may discount theories or conclusions expressed in an article. This information is essential for continued research, and is a benefit to the learning process.

However, personal comments lacking the respect due the spirited efforts of your fellow researchers serve no useful purpose. If memory serves me correctly I think it was Albert Einstein who said, “man’s spirited efforts have always encountered vehement resistance”.

It’s far more productive to enhance your fellow researcher efforts than it is to degrade their methods or logic.

Respectfully,
Russell Easterbrooks



(Via e-mail)

Angel:

1. What happened to my letter? There are typos in it that weren't in the text I sent you. Did you run it through a file format translator or something? Did you read it over before it went to the printer?
2. If you're going to run an illustration that is supposed to be the original great seal of NJ you should at least give the citation to its source. The seal you show underneath my letter is the seal as designed by Du Simitiere in 1776. It includes a helmet under the horse's head and a Roman numerals date, neither of which were in the original order for the job that was given to him. Consequently, his design was not generally adopted at the time and printers of the day made their own representations of the seal that were based upon a strict reading of the original order given to Simitiere. The horse head left was not the original design, as you say. The words of the order for the NJ seal state: "...the Arms shall be three Ploughs in an Escutcheon; the Supporters, Liberty and Ceres, and the Crest, a Horse's Head...". The direction the horse's head was supposed to face in was not specified. It was left up to the artist's choice. Du Simitiere had it facing left. Others had it facing right. The justices of the Supreme Court's design obviously had it facing right, since that's the way Cox & Goadsby & Ogden had it on their coins. By the mid 19th century the design of the seal had been decided upon, at which time the horse's head faced left, as it does today. I don't mind editorial contradictions when I'm wrong. I do mind them when they're not based on solid research.
3. On behalf of Stack's, thank you for the placement of the Perkins sale ad.

Regards

Mike Hodder

Editor's Note: I apologize for the typos. Michael's letter was my first entry into the computer for our last issue, and this was back in

September. I thought I had revised it after using Textbridge to enter it. I guess they escaped me. I have tried to do the best I can with the newsletter in the little time off I have from my practice of medicine. But obviously, as opposed to some, I am far from perfect. I suppose I need to cast aside my dreams of abandoning medicine for a career as a major publisher.

As to the second point, my notes were not an editorial contradiction, or at least I did not see it as such. As a matter of fact, I am basically agreeing with most of what Michael said on this point. Neither did I at any point insinuate that this was based on my research. I was presenting to the readers, as stated, the figure of the shield originally sent in by John Lorenzo. Did I leave out the source? Yes, and this was a mistake. The source of the illustration is page 33 of "The Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey" by John Barber and Henry Howe, published by S. Tuttle in 1844. The quote in brackets under the illustration is also from the book, and appears just under the illustration as I placed it. According to what they say, someone could assume that since this particular seal was the original seal present in a "much worn" state at the New Jersey secretary of state's office prior to 1844, some sort of agreement on the position of the horse's head had been reached prior to mid-eighteenth century. They call it the original, but do not give a date when it was first available. Which design the judges looked at before accepting the coin design by Cox, Goadsby & Ogden? Was it an official state approved design, or did they simply allow artistic license to the coiners? The answer may seem obvious to some. Personally, I do not think we know.

I further checked on the origin of the seal in the Internet. The New Jersey state's home page, at www.state.nj.us/njfacts/seal.htm, reads as follows:

New Jersey's state seal was designed by Pierre Eugene du Simitiere and presented in May 1777, to the Legislature, which was meeting in the Indian King Tavern in Haddonfield.

The three plows in the shield honor the state's agricultural tradition. The helmet above the shield faces forward, an attitude

denoting sovereignty and thus particularly fitting for one of the first governments created under the notion that the state itself is the sovereign. The crest above the helmet is a horse's head.

The supporting female figures are Liberty and Ceres, the Roman goddess of grain, symbolizing abundance. Liberty, on the viewer's left, carries the liberty cap on her staff. Ceres holds a cornucopia filled with harvested produce.

Although the Seal's major elements have kept their relative positions for more than 200 years, there have been a number of lesser changes. The staff that Liberty now holds with her right hand she once held in the crook of her left arm. While the female figures now face straight ahead they at one time looked away from the shield. The cornucopia that Ceres holds upright was once inverted, its open end to the ground. The Seal was redesigned in accordance with Joint Resolution 8 of the laws of 1928. It was then that the year of statehood, 1776, first appeared in Arabic figures.

Now, I cannot vouch for the research of Barber, Howe or the state of New Jersey. I will leave it to the readers to decide if it is also not "solid research". However, both seem to indicate that the design by du Sumitiere was the adopted design, and that the horse head left may have been there from the beginning as John stated.

Does this mean that I agree with John Lorenzo's conclusion. Only in as much that I view it as a possibility. But if this change would have been such a big deal I would have expected many more horse head left varieties to have been made. The horse head right was perfectly acceptable to the judges, and the NJ coppers were probably the ones with the best acceptance among the public. With all the known factors that lead to the demise of the coppers, it would seem that the direction of the head would be trivial. However, this thought may have crossed an engraver's mind, or there may be some other yet unknown fundamental reason for the change as Michael Hodder suggested. Maybe again it was just artistic license and the engraver's whim that led to the horse head left designs.



I received some inquiries about the sources for my article on Robert Morris. The information came predominantly from the book "Robert Morris: Patriot and Financier" by Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, published

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by Burt Franklin, New York, 1903. I also used "The Financier and the Finances of the American Revolution" by William Graham Sumner, published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1891, mostly to double check certain details. This last work is more extensive and goes deeper into financial issues, but Mr. Sumner lacked access to Morris' diary and other papers then in private hands that subsequently became available to Mr. Oberholtzer.



C4 Meeting, Fun 2000

by Stan Stephens

On Saturday January 8th, in sunny Orlando Florida, C4 members gathered for a scheduled meeting. No formal program was planned but we managed to spend one hour engaged in conversation. We talked about the 1999 convention, future conventions, book and research projects, and the way that the internet has affected our hobby.

Regarding future conventions it was asked if we might hold one in a different city. During this discussion the many advantages of having the convention in Boston in conjunction with the Baystate Show were talked about. There was general agreement on keeping the convention in Boston for the foreseeable future.

John Griffie talked about the progress of his St. Patrick farthing book. I know first hand that he is making progress with it. We both want to thank the collectors that sent John their coins so we could have Bill Noyes photograph them at this show. We ended up with about 100 coins. Wow.

Tom Rinaldo suggested that a future book project might be an updated reference on deceptive copies of colonial coins. There was agreement on the need for this.



Clem Schettino's NJ 17-K Maris coin?

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Finally, discussion centered on the Internet and the fast growing use of auction sites such as EBAY. It is clear that the Internet is helping to bring coins to collectors.

The following noteworthy coins surfaced during the show:

Tom Rinaldo bought what might be the finest known 16M Massachusetts cent. He calls it a slider unc. It came to him without pedigree. Tom also acquired a 1787 Connecticut 39.2-ee in EF45. He noted that it has nice color and surfaces and that it is struck off center with some localized weakness.

Clem Schettino was very happy to add a New Jersey 17K to his collection. He has reason to believe that this might be the Maris plate coin mentioned by Breen in his unpublished manuscript. (See photo).

Mike Ringo added a contemporary cast counterfeit Voce Populi Nelson 12 (P in front of face) in decent VF to his collection. Jim Scalbe had offered me the coin and after thinking about it for a day I passed. Mike thought about it for two seconds and bought it. Ouch. I thought I might be making a mistake when I passed (this series is my specialty) and it became crystal clear that I had when Mike liked it enough to add it to his collection.

The following members attended the meeting:

Stan Stephens	Frank Jozapaitis
George Fitzgerald	Brian Danforth
Clem Schettino	F. Gordon Frost
David Cornell	Don Valenziano
Frank McGrath	Tom Rinaldo
John Griffiee	Norman Peters



New Jersey Condition Census Report

By Michael Wierzba

		MIKE WIERZBA'S NEW JERSEY CONDITION CENSUS
MARIS #	RARITY	CONDITION CENSUS GRADES TOP SIX TO SEVEN OF THE VARIETY
3-C	6	UNC(1976 STACK'S ANA) AU(SACCONI) AU(WC ANS 1914) AU(CROSBY PARMELEE) EF(APPLETON ANA 1976) EF(EC-JWG) EF(ROPER)
4-C	8	XF+(WC RYDER BOYD) XF(JWG ARMELEE CROSBY) VF(CHAPMAN 1914)
4.5-pp	9	VG(JWG ELLSWORTH) XRETOOLED REVERSE SHOULD BE DELISTED
5-C	8	UNC(EC-JWG ELLSWORTH STICKNEY) G(NEWMAN BAUER)
6-C	4	UNC(AUGUST) AU+(JWG) AU(EC-S) XF(GIBBONS) VF+(D WIERZBA) VF+(S F H G) VF+(YALE)
6-D	1	UNC(S F P) AU(N H #1) AU(EC) AU(AUGUST) XF+(T-JPL) XF+(D WIERZBA) XF(3rd C-4 SALE) NOTE 6
7-C	9	VG(EC BARNESLY RUDDY)
7-E	7	XF+(EC-PICKER) XF(EC) VF(NORWEB) VG(PNW EC-SPIRO) TWO OTHERS
8-F	7	XF+(EC-ROPER) XF+(JWG EC) VG(EC GOUDGE/BREEN PLATE) VG(?)
8.5-C	8	VF(TAYLOR) VF(EC P KRAISMAN) F(JWG EC)
9-G	7+	VF(T-EC) VF(MARIS-JWG P EC) VF(TANNENBAUM) F(O-S) VG(NJHS) G(WC)
10.5-C	9	F+(STACKS 1/93)
10-G	6+	UNC+(S-WC) XF(EC) VF+(NJHS) VF+(H G JWG) VF(AUGUST) VF(B B R 90)
10-h	7	AU(N GROVES) XF(EC FOREMAN) VF+(O-S) VF(ANA-MARIS) F+(WC) VG(NJHS)
10-gg	8	XF(TAYLOR-EC) VF(SUPERIOR) VG(WC HALL BRAND BOYD HALL)
10-oo	9	F+/VF(HG)
11-G	9	UNC(EC-MHS)
11-H	6	VF+(HG-JWG) VF+(EC) VF+(EC) VF+(AUGUST RINGO) VF+(WC) VF+(BAREFORD FOREMAN S) VF+(MARTIN) VF(SHERR)
11.5-G	7	VF(EC) VF(S-O) F+(NJHS) F+(H G) F(WC) F(EC P JWG-MARIS) F(MARYLAND 3RD C-4) F(PNW EC) VG+(D WIERZBA EC-MPC-DEATS)
11-hh	9	G(WC-S)
12-G	5	AU(S F O-S) AU(EC BAREFORD FOREMAN) XF+(3rd C-4 SALE TERRANOVA) XF+(ROPER) XF(NN 60th) VF+(PNW N-RARITIES) VF+(5TH C-4-MPC)
12-I	5	AU(WC) XF(NJ COLL SF PL 90) VF+(FOREMAN BAREFORD) VF(NJHS) VF(EC) VF(O'DONNELL BARNES P) VF(S F) NOTE 1
13-J	6	AU(H G JWG GROVES) EX(EC BAREFORD S) VF(WC) VF(MENCHELL FRONTENAC) VF(PNW STEINBERG) VF(D WIERZBA S 6/97-RES) NOTE 2
14-J	1	UNC(EC) UNC(WC) UNC(EC) UNC(STACKS OT C) AU+(AUGUST) AU(BAREFORD) AU(FRONTENAC) AU(ELLSWORTH GARRETT) AU(O-S)
15-J	2	UNC(EC-JWG) TIE XF+(JPL FRONT/4th C-4 Sale) TIE XF(SPINK 97-D WIERZBA/AUGUST) XF(PIETRI) EF(EC) EF(S F RESIGNO)
15-L	3	UNC(JWG) AU+(NJ COLL N) AU+(AUGUST) AU(FRONTENAC STICKNEY) XF+(NJ COLL) XF(T) XF(PALMER) VF+(HG) VF+(MOORE) VF+(D WIERZBA B+M TOROK)
15-T	4	UNC(BUSHNELL ELIASBERG) UNC(MILLS BAREFORD) UNC(RES S F) AU(JWG NEWCOMER) AU(S 6/97 O-S) AU(P SHERIDAN-EC)
15-U	5+	XF(GROVES-HG) VF+(EC) VF(EC) VF(S 6/97 O-S) VF(25 O'DONNELL BARNES) VF(PIETRI GRIFFIE) VF(JPL T HALL WURTZBACH)
16-d	7+	VF(EC) VF(EC) F+(NJHS) G(WC)
16-J	6	XF(EC BAREFORD) XF(EC P) VF+(EC) VF+(KRUEGER GSNA 8 B3) VF+(AUGUST) VF(WC) VF(O-S)
16-L	1	UNC(S) UNC(BUSHNELL EC) AU(KISSNER) AU(S F S 1/99-DAVIS GRAVES 54) XF(FRONTENAC) XF(T) XF(PIETRI)
16-S	9	F(EC)
17-J	4	VF+(P-JWG) VF+(PIETRI HG) VF+(JPL FRONTENAC) VF+(SHERR) VF+(BARNES 2nd set S F) VF+(SCHITTINO TOROK COLE) VF+gran(D WIERZBA)
17-K	3	AU(AUGUST) AU(JWG S F) XF(RES JPL) XF(H G) XF(N) VF+(M WIERZBA) VF+(JWG)
17-b	3	AU+(EC JWG ELLSWORTH) AU+(EC FRONTENAC) AU(AUGUST) AU(EC JWG MARIS) AU(T S F) XF(PNW S 1/99 N) XF(N BALDWIN) XF(H G) XF(NJHS)
18-J	5+	AU(EC JWG MARIS) AU(MILLS WC) XF(EC) VF+(WILLIAMS S 6/97) VF+(S F EC) VF+(N) VF(EC) VF(D WIERZBA)
18-L	9	VG(P-EC) (POSSIBLY 2 OTHERS, BUT UNCONFIRMED)
18-M	1	UNC(N) UNC(MILLS) UNC(EC JWG PARMELEE) UNC(T) AU(D WIERZBA-ROPER) AU(FOREMAN) XF+(PNW S 6/97 O-S)

18-N	5+	XF+(WC-CRAIGE)-XF(SMITH-EC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(WIDOK)-VF+(STEIMLE)-VF+(D WIERZBA-H G S) NOTE 3
19-M	5	AU(EC)-XF(JWG-EC)-VF+(RES-D.PALMER)-VF+(FRONTENAC)-VF+(AUGUST)-VF+(WC)-VF+(PIETRI-SHERR)
20-N	4	AU(EC)-AU(EC)-XF+(EC-JWG)-XF(N)-XF(O-S)-XF(T)
21-N	2	UNC(EC-MILLS-JWG)-AU(BAREFORD)-XF+(SHERR-YALE)-XF(ROPER)-XF(DOUGLAS)-VF+(MILLS-PARMELEE)-VF+(D WIERZBA)
21-O	5	UNC(EC)-AUG(GROVES-O-S)-XF+(P)-2XF(EC)-VF+(PNW-GRIFFEE)-VF+(N)-VF+(PIETRI)
21-P	5	UNC(AUGUST)-AU+(S F-JWG-MARIS)-AU+(EC-WINDSOR-SPENCE)-AU+(WC)-AU(EC)-AU(JC CLOS)-AU(recolored X MAYIME-ELIASBURG)
21-R	7	VF(WC)-VF(F(EC-P))-F(VF(AUGUST)-F(RINGO)-VG(F(NJHS)-VG(LYMAN-HG)-VG(O-S)-G(FRONTENAC)
21.5-R	8	VF(WC)-VG(EC-P-JWG-MARIS)
22-P	7	VF+(MPC-WC)-VF(NJHS)-VF(EC-P-JWG-MARIS)-VF(STACKS-EC)-VF+(S F-RESIGNO)-VG(S O H G)-VG(PARMELEE)-VG(ANS)
23-P	2	AU+(AUGUST)-AU(HESSBURG)-XF(S O)-XF(S 6/97-JWG-MARIS)-XF(N)-XF(GRIFFEE)
23-R	3	UNC(T)-UNC(HG-EC)-AU+(AUGUST)-AU(EC)-AU(ROCK-PARMELEE-BAREFORD)-XF+(G J BAUER)-XF+(D WIERZBA-EC)-XF(STIENBERG)
23.5-R	7+	VF+(N)-VG(WC)-G(CRAIGE-WC)
24-I	8	VF(FOREMAN)-VF(EC)-VG/G(PALMER-HG)
24-M	7+	XF(EC-MILLION DOLLAR SALE)-VG(MOORE)-VG(MARYLAND COLL)-G(WC)
24-P	2	UNC(S F-JWG-MARIS)-UNC(PARMELEE-MILLS)-AU+(EC)-AU(BAREFORD)-XF+(recolored X LORENZO-FOREMAN)-XF(PIETRI-FRONTENAC)-XF(S O)-XF(D WIERZBA)
24-Q	7+	XF+(EC)-F(EC-BAREFORD)-VG(EC-P-JWG-MARIS)-VG(FOREMAN-HG)
24-R	5	UNC(AUGUST)-AU+(KING-EC)-XF(JWG-SHERR)-VF+(NJHS)-VF+(PNW-FRONTENAC-STICKNEY)-VF+(WC)-VF+(S F-FOREMAN-BAREFORD-S)-VF+(MOORE-4TH C-4 SALE)
25-S	5+	XF(PALMER-T)-VF+(T-JWG)-VF+(AUGUST)-VF+(B+M 9/98)-VF(AUGUST)-VF(EC)-VF(D WIERZBA-BARNES-FRONTENAC)-VF(LORENZO-H G)-VF(MOORE-S 1/93)
26-d	8	VF(NJHS)-VG(EC-AUGUST)
26-S	5	XF(EC)-XF(JWG-T)-VF+(WC)-VF+(H G)-VF+(LORENZO-FRONTENAC)-VF(D WIERZBA)-VF(MOORE)-VF(WILLIAMS-GRIFFEE)-VF(AUGUST)
27-I	6+	TIE]-VF+(MADIGAN)-VF+(O)-VF(EC)-VF(T-MOORE)-VF(WC)-F(JPL)-F(ANS)-F(ANS)
27-S	5	AU(EC)-AU(JWG-HG-MPC)-XF+(BAREFORD-S)-VF+(D WIERZBA)-VF(T)-VF(M WIERZBA-GRIFFEE)-VF(DENT X SHERR)-F(FRONT-PARMELEE)
28-L	3	UNC(PNW-P-JWG-MPC)-XF+(SFPL 90)-XF(FRONTENAC)-XF(ANS)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(BAREFORD-BRAND-HALL)
28-S	5	UNC(JWG-EC)-AU+(O-S)-XF(T)-VF+(D WIERZBA)-VF(NJHS)-VF(GRIFFEE-FRONT)-VF(D WIERZBA-BARNES)-VF(M WIERZBA)
29-L	4	UNC(AUGUST)-AU(EC)-AU(N)-VF+(GRIFFEE-T)-VF(M WIERZBA-S 6/97-RES-JWG-MPC)-VF(WC)-VF(BUSHNELL)
29.5-L	9	ONE KNOWN (NOT SEEN)
30-L	3	UNC(EC-JWG)-UNC(EC)-AU(WC-EARLE RYDER)-XF(AUGUST)-XF(ROPER)-VF+(O S)-VF+(H G)-VF(T)-VF(FOREMAN-BAREFORD)
31-L	2	UNC(EC)-AU(S F-JWG-MARIS)-AU(AUGUST)-AU(SFPL 90)-XF+(O-S)-XF(T)-XF(BBR90)-XF(PIETRI)
32-T	1	UNC(WC-S)-UNC(PA COLL)-AU(EC)-AU(AUGUST)-XF/AU(JWG-EC)-XF+(T)-XF(N)-XF(FRONTENAC)-XF(S F)
33-U	4+	AU(EC)-XF+(JWG)-XF(JWG)-XF(D WIERZBA)-XF(AUGUST)-XF(NJHS)-XF(JPL-FRONTENAC)-VF(BAREFORD-FOREMAN-S)
34-J	3	AU(JWG-EC)-AU(WC)-XF(S 3/94)-XF(S F)-VF+(T)-VF+(EC-S-BLAISDELL)-VF(JPL)-VF(D WIERZBA)
34-V	6	AU(EC)-XF(P-EC)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(MCGRATH)-VF(M WIERZBA-BARNES-H G)-VF(SCHERFF-FRONTENAC)-VF(WC)
35-J	6	XF(EC)-VF(EC)-VF(S F)-VF(S)-VF(D WIERZBA)-VF(WILLIAMS)-VF(PALMER-S 6/97-FRONTENAC)
35-W	7+	VF+(NJHS)-VF(F(EC)-F+(S F-H GARRETT)-F(WC)-VG(MARYLAND COLLECTION)
36-J	7	UNC(EC)-VF(WC-CRAIGE)-VF(WC)-F+(EC-AUGUST)-F+(S F-EC-T)-F(EC)-F(NJHS)
37-J	6-/5+	AU(AUGUST)-XF(H G)-VF(EC-S-BLAISDELL)-VF(S F)-VF(SHERR-FOREMAN)-VF(F(P-MARIS)-F(VF(H G)-F(BAREFORD)-F(T): NOTE 5
37-X	7	VF(O-TERRANOVA)-F+(MILLS-WC)-F+(H G)-F+(NJHS)-F+(GEOFFREY)-F+(S 1/93)-F+(EC-P)-F+(AUGUST)
37-Y	4	AU(S-MOORE)-XF(JPL)-VF+(AUGUST)-VF(BARNES-P)-F+(D WIERZBA)-VF(VG(surf prob X M WIERZBA)-H G)-F(BAREFORD-S)-F(BARNES 2nd set)
37-I	4	UNC(EC)-XF+(T-JWG-MARIS)-VF+(BAREFORD)-VF+(D WIERZBA)-VF(S H G)-VF(PIETRI-FRONTENAC-MILLS)
38-L	9	VF
38-Y	4	UNC(EC)-AU(S F-FRONTENAC-S)-XF(EC-JWG-T)-XF(JPL)-VF(MADIGAN)-VF(BAREFORD-BRAND-HALL)-VF(P)
38-Z	4	UNC(JWG-EC)-XF(S-WC)-XF(N)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(JPL)-VF+(MADIGAN)-VF+(T)

38.a	4	XF(T)-VF+(ANS)-VF(N)-VF(BAREFORD-S)-VF(H G)-VF(PIETRI)-VF(STICKNEY)
38.b	6	AU(H G)-VF+(WC-S)-VF(BAREFORD-EC)-VF(PNW-BARNES)-VF(WC)-F(P-JWG-MARIS)-F(EC)
38.c	3	AU(T-JPL)-AU(EC-BLAISDELL)-XF(O)-XF(PIETRI)-VF+(S-BAREFORD)-VF(P-MARIS)-VF(D WIERZBA-H G)
39.a	2	UNQ(EC)-AU(PIETRI-FRONTENAC)-AU(S F)-AU(BAREFORD)-XF(JWG-MARIS)-XF(KISSNER)-XF(T)
40.b	5+	AU(EC)-XF+(SIBONI-EC-MILLION DOLLAR SALE)-XF(EC)-XF(damage)(H G)-VF(SHERR)-VF(WC)-VF(FRONTENAC)
41.c	5+	AU+(EC)-AU+(EC)-XF(MAYIME-EC)-XF(AUGUST)-XF(FOREMAN)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(N)-VF+(WC)
42.c	5+	VF+(NJHS)-VF+(WC)-VF+(EC)-VF+(N)-VF+(MOORE)-VF(EC)-VF(EC)-VF(EC)
42.5.c	9	VG(MARYLAND COLLECTION)
43.Y	4	XF(H G-JPL)-XF(EC)-VF+(S F)-VF+(AUGUST)-VF(PNW)-VF(S O)-VF(P-JWG)-VF(BAREFORD-FOREMAN)
43.d	1	UNQ(EC)-UNQ(JWG-MARIS)-AU(S 6/97-N-STEINBERG)-AU(S 3/94-FRONTENAC-S)-XF+(BAREFORD)-XF(D WIERZBA)-XF(S F)
44.c.1	7	XF(MARIS-JWG-EC)-VF(S-WC)-F+(PNW-EC)-F+(HG-B B R90)-F(AUGUST)-F(NJHS)-2VG(ANS)
44.d	4	XF(P-MARIS)-XF(S-BAREFORD)-XF(T)-XF(AUGUST)-XF(GRIFFEE-H G)-XF(4th C.4 SALE)-VF(FRONTENAC)-VF(D WIERZBA-BARNES)
45.d	5+	XF(T-JWG-MPC)-VF+(MOORE-S 6/97-N)-VF(PNW-BARNES)-VF(AUGUST)-VF(HG)-VF(WC)-F+(GRIFFEE-WILLIAMS)
45.e	5	UNQ(DEALER E.A.C. 98)-XF(S-WC)-XF(P-JWG-MARIS)-XF(ham edges)(AUGUST)-VF+(HESSBURG)-VF(BAREFORD-FOREMAN)-(FRONTENAC)-VF(ANS)-NOTE 4
46.e	1	UNQ(EC)-UNQ(STEINBERG)-UNQ(S F)-AU(S 75)-AU(BAREFORD)-AU(H G)
47.e	6	AU(EC)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(NJHS)-VF(EC)-VF(MOORE-BARNES-BAREFORD-S)-VF(EC)-VF(EC)
47.5.e	8	VF(EC)-VG(WC)
48.X	7+	VF(AUERBACH-JPL)-VF(EC)-F(EC-FORGOTTEN COINS PLATE COIN)-VG(WC-S)
48.f	3	AU+(H G)-AU(EC)-XF(S F O)-VF+(N)-VF+(BAREFORD)-VF(SFPL90)-VF(S)
48.g	1	UNQ(EC)-UNQ(N)-UNQ(PIETRI-H G-RED BOOK PLATE COIN)-AU(GRIFFEE-JWG-ELLSWORTH)-AU(FRONTENAC)-AU(SFPL92)-AU(S 1/93)
49.f	5	AU+(NJHS)-AU(EC)-VF+(D WIERZBA-YALE)-VF+(S F-EC)-VF(FOREMAN-GARRETT-MARIS)-VF(STEINBERG)-VF(O)
50.f	3	UNQ(JWG-HG)-UNQ(MILLS)-XF(NJHS)-VF+(RHUE-RARITIES-EARLE)-VF+(O-BUSHNELL)-VF+(AUGUST)-VF(PIETRI-FRONTENAC)-VF(D WIERZBA-EC)-VF(S F-RINALDO)
51.g	6	UNQ(SCHERRF-FRONTENAC)-XF+(WC-CROSBY PLATE COIN)-XF(SHERR-FOREMAN-GARRETT)-XF(MOORE-S 3/94-HG)-XF(AUGUST)-XF(EC)-XF(SFPL90)-XF(S F)
52.i	3	AU+(PNW-GARRETT-MARIS)-AU(EC)-AU(ELIESBURG-MITUZAS)-AU(MHS)-XF(BAREFORD-S)-XF(D WIERZBA)-XF(N)
53.j	4	UNQ(S)-UNQ(BUSHNELL)-UNQ(PARMELEE)-AU(JWG)-XF(PIETRI)-XF(S F-H G)-XF(BBR90)-XF(COHEN)
54.k	3	UNQ(MARIS PLATE-MARIS)-AU+(S F-H G)-AU+(EC)-AU+(N)-AU(JWG)-AU(FRONTENAC)-XF+(JPL)
55.l	5	UNQ(MILLS)-UNQ(EARLE)-XF+(P-JWG-MARIS)-XF(S)-VF+(FRONTENAC)-VF+(NJHS)
55.m	4	AU(JWG-H G)-XF+(N)-XF(STICKNEY)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(D WIERZBA-FRONTENAC-S)-VF+(GRIFFEE-FRONTENAC)
56.n	1	UNQ(S F-H G-S)-UNQ(EC)-AU+(N)-AU(P-JWG-MARIS)-AU(GARRETT)-XF+(PNW-S 6/97-O)-XF(S F-STACKS OTC)
57.n	6+	XF+(AUGUST)-VF+(XF(EC)-VF(EC-MARIS)-VF(4TH C.4 SALE)-F+(H G)-F+(JWG-EC)-F+(EC)
58.n	5	AU+(M WIERZBA-4TH C.4 SALE)-AU+(GRIFFEE-SPIRO)-AU(PNW-H G-MARIS)-XF+(LORENZO-PICKER 91)-XF(S F)-XF(JWG)-XF(FRONTENAC-S)
59.o	5	AU(S F-BAREFORD-S)-XF+(EC-BLAISDELL-S)-XF+(D WIERZBA)-XF+(EC-BLAISDELL-S)-XF(T)-VF+(PIETRI-FRONTENAC-MARIS)-NOTE 8
60.p	4	AU+(BAREFORD)-AU(JWG)-XF(D WIERZBA-STEINBURG)-XF(AUGUST)-VF+(S)-VF+(S)-VF+(O)-VF+(M WIERZBA)
61.p	5	UNQ(AUGUST)-AU(H G-JWG)-VF(T)-VF(BAREFORD)-VF(S 3/94-S)-VF(O)-VF(N)
62.q	1	UNQ(JWG-BUSHNELL-MILLS)-UNQ(T)-UNQ(EC)-UNQ(WC)-AU(S 6/97)-XF(GRIFFEE-FRONTENAC-S)-XF(FRONTENAC-HALL)-XF(D WIERZBA-3RD C.4 SALE)-XF(D WIERZBA))
62.r	8	F(EC)-F(VG(TWO KNOWN))
62.5.r	9	VF(ONE KNOWN)
63.q	1	UNQ(N)-UNQ(JWG)-AU(BAREFORD)-AU(D WIERZBA-CLEANY-RYDER)-XF+(S 6/97-JWG-MPC)-XF
63.r	5	XF+(N)-XF+(T)-VF+(SHERR)-VF(S F-GRIFFEE-BAREFORD)-VF(S)-VF(AUGUST)-VF(P-JWG-MARIS)-VF(WILLIAMS-H G-S)
63.s	1	UNQ(BUSHNELL)-UNQ(N)-UNQ(HERITAGE 88)-AU(JWG)-AU(S F)-AU(MOORE-3RD C.4 SALE-O)
64.t	1	UNQ(EC-FRONTENAC)-UNQ(H G)-AU+(SUPERIOR SALE)-AU+(JWG)-XF+(S F-GRIFFEE-JWG-MICKLEY-MARIS)-XF+(NJHS)-XF+(N)-XF(ROPER)-NOTE 8
64.u	5+	AU(EC)-VF+(NJHS)-VF+(WC-S)-VF(EC)-VF(PIETRI-FRONTENAC-S)-VF(S)-VF(GRIFFEE-MOORE)

[illegible]

Abbreviations:

JWG: Bowers and Ruddy John Work Garrett Sale. 1980
HG: Henry Garrett Sale(Spring Quartette) Bowers and Merena(B+M) 3/92
P: Stacks Picker Sale 1984
T: Taylor Sale Bowers and Merena 1987
O: Oechsner Sale Stacks 1988
S: Spiro Sale Schulinan 1955
BBR90:Boyd Brand and Ryder B+M 3/90
N: Norweb Sale. B+M 1987
MHS: Mass. Historical Society Sale, Stacks 1970
RES: Harry Resigno Sale(Saccone) B+M 1991
S:6/97: Stacks Elm Rock Sale 6/97
MPC: Maris Plate Coin
S:3/94: Russ Smith Sale of New Jersey Colonials Stacks 3/94

EC: Eastern Collector
WC: Western Collector
SF: San Francisco Collector
NJHS: New Jersey Historical Society
PNW: Pacific Northwestern Collector
ANS: American Numismatics Society
N.H. #1: New Hampshire Collector #1

Notes:

Note 1: This editor saw, at E.A.C. 1999 in Cincinnati, a Maris 12-I which is probably the 2nd or 3rd finest known for the variety. It is the Ringo-Stack's fixed price list(1990) coin.
The current owner of this coin will remain unlisted for the time being.

Note 2: A noted Pennsylvania collector has reported the finding of a VF Maris 13-J. However this editor has not viewed this piece.

Note 3: A Maris 18-N was purchased at E.A.C. 1999 by fellow collector Clem Schettino, and was seen by this editor. Even though

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this piece doesn't make the condition census for the variety, it is problem free, which is very uncommon for the Maris 18-N. Most of them come granular and with scratches, but this example is choice tan with no problems.

Note 4: At E.A.C. 1998, in Boston, a coin was viewed by the editor that was Uncirculated in condition. The variety was the R-5 Maris 45-e. This coin was bumped up to the finest known, in which before the finest was only XF. This coin was consigned to a noted colonial dealer. The coin displayed between 50-60 percent original color on the obverse, and the reverse was chocolate brown. The current owner is unknown.

Note 5: A very important discovery has come up since the latest publication of the this condition census. The finding of a Georgivs Triumpho undertype was found on a Mans 73-aa. This was discovered by Dennis Wierzba. This is the only known Georgivs Triumpho undertype on any New Jersey colonial. Walter Breen said, in his encyclopedia, that the Georgivs Triumpho undertype was found on many 73-aa's. However it proved to be inaccurate. This proves that the Georgivs Triumpho circulated around 1790 or earlier. Recently, a Georgivs Triumpho dug in Pennsylvania was offered on EBAY. This is another example showing that the Georgivs Triumpho's circulated in the United States during the late 1700s.

Note 6: A high-grade specimen of the Mans 37-J has surfaced. The grade is VF, which is a high grade for the variety, and is high condition census. The coin now resides in a prominent New Jersey collection.

Note 7: At the 1999 E.A.C. convention, this editor was taken aside, and shown an extremely high grade Mans 6-D. The piece grades AU+ and is extremely choice. The coin resides in a prominent colonial collection. It has been added into the Condition Census as the third finest known.

Note 8: A nice example of the Mans 59-o surfaced in the Summer Superior Sale, along with a high grade Maris 64-t. The 59-o was a nice VF, and was purchased by the Pacific Northwestern collector. Even though it doesn't make the Condition Census for the variety, it is still a noteworthy coin. The 59-o does not come high grade and the finding of a nice one was a great opportunity for a New Jersey collector. Also in this sale, the third finest known 64-t surfaced. The picture looked as though the coin was all scratched up. However, this was merely a damaged slab. It had original color in the protected areas and was a nice brown in color.



A TM Signature on a Vlack 14-84A?

by Dennis Wierzba

I had the privilege of studying a very high grade Vlack 14-84A from the collection of George Siefert. The coin is a well struck EF-AU with a gouge on the bust. It weighs 97.8 grams and measures 28.2 mm horizontally by 28.5 mm vertically. The reverse is book turn, but rotated to 4K, not to 6K as expected. The rotated reverse is a feature common to the variety similar to the "Babyhead", VT RR9. My collection has an example that is fully coin turn. The denticles are hand-cut with the J784 date possibly the same. An unusual portrait of George III features a strong sinew on the neck. The most surprising feature is a clear TM hidden among the mail on the bust-- fully visible only on high-grade examples. The question at hand: "was it intentional or an optical illusion of the design"? The opinions of respected colonial numismatists that have seen the coin are split on this issue.

It seems clear to me that the 14-84A is a U.S. colonial copper, i.e., a coin that was meant to circulate primarily, if not exclusively, in the U.S. The location of the mint is NOT part of the definition. John Kleeberg (1) identified several examples of American circulation. Indeed the inclusion of the 14-84A along with many other Machin Mills in the Beach Grunthal hoard suggests a Machin Mills origin to



Fig. 1: Vlack 14-84A with "TM" initials?

me. (Byron Weston declared that this 14-84A was NOT part of the hoard. Perhaps he examined the Beach hoard and rejected the analysis of Kleeberg. Otherwise, I do not understand the rational scientific basis of his comment (2).) Weston's point that the 1784 is included in the English collection of Batty carries little weight as American-made Machin Mills are found in the same listing! It should be noted that nearly all the numismatists of colonial times were English gentlemen and clergy. There are many examples of U.S. colonial coins traveling to English collections plus chance distributions of trade and commerce. To the best of my knowledge, nearly all of the other surviving examples of this variety were purchased in the U.S.

As to the mint site, I would say "likely of American manufacture" based on crudeness of design, the 1784 date, American circulation, die rotation and planchet quality. The initials TM, if intentional, are suggestive of Thomas Machin, who built his home, later to be the mint house, on Machin Mills pond in 1784. Perhaps the portrait is of Thomas himself! As this is just speculation on my part, I will let the reader be the judge of the photo.

1- "Reconstructing the Beach-Grunthal Hoard of Counterfeit Halfpence: The Montclair, NJ (1922) Hoard" by John Kleeberg, *American Journal of Numismatics* 7-8, 1995-96

2- "The Beach-Grunthal Hoard and Vlack 14-84A" by Byron Weston, *The C4 Newsletter*, Fall 1997, V5 No3

Editor's Note: This is indeed a very intriguing finding. Is this a fluke or so subtle a mark as to be seen only in very high-grade specimens? I hope that the photo prints well. The M is fairly clear, but the T is harder to see, just outside the edge of the mail. I marked it with an arrow and hope you can see it. I cannot see it in several other specimens photographed for the photofile. If anyone has similar high-grade specimens that show these initials, we would be interested in having these photographed.



Modern Era Double Attribution Error

by Roger Moore

The “error coins” of yore are now hot collector items. Shift double strikes, flip over double strikes, edge strikes, planchet cutter marks, incomplete planchet cuts, and numerous other errors grab the attention of collectors and often demand a premium in price. In fact, the recent CA auction, M&G November 6, 1999, was filled with numerous great examples of colonial error coins and bidding for these coins was hot. However, for the novice collector, evaluating error coins can be problematic since an in-depth knowledge of the whole process associated with colonial coin minting is needed. A modern approach touted as a major aid for the novice coin collector, as well as the coin investor, is the use of a third party rating company with encapsulation of the colonial coin. Hard-core colonial coin collectors have met this approach with nearly universal disdain, but encapsulation continues unabated. Most colonial collectors will remove an encapsulated coin from its slab once they buy it, and at every colonial coin club meeting there are friendly dealers who will show you how to remove slabbed coins without injuring them.

I was the fortunate purchaser of lot #5383 in the September 23, 1999 Long Beach Heritage Numismatic Auction. The lot was labeled, “Double Struck 1787 New Jersey Cent”. The description states that “Close examination reveals that the coin was first struck, then the coin flipped over in the bottom die and rotated, and was struck a second time, effacing much of the original details from the first striking.” No Maris variety was assigned but the cataloger did finish by stating that it was “An interesting study piece for the Colonial or error specialist.” Luckily the coin was plated and revealed an obvious Maris 73-aa with a prominent Connecticut undertype. More detailed examination revealed the undertype to be a 1787 Connecticut of the variety 37.8-HH. No evidence of a flip over double strike was present. The lack of ability of a harried cataloger to make a proper attribution of a somewhat unfamiliar colonial coin is partially understandable, though one would expect a major auction

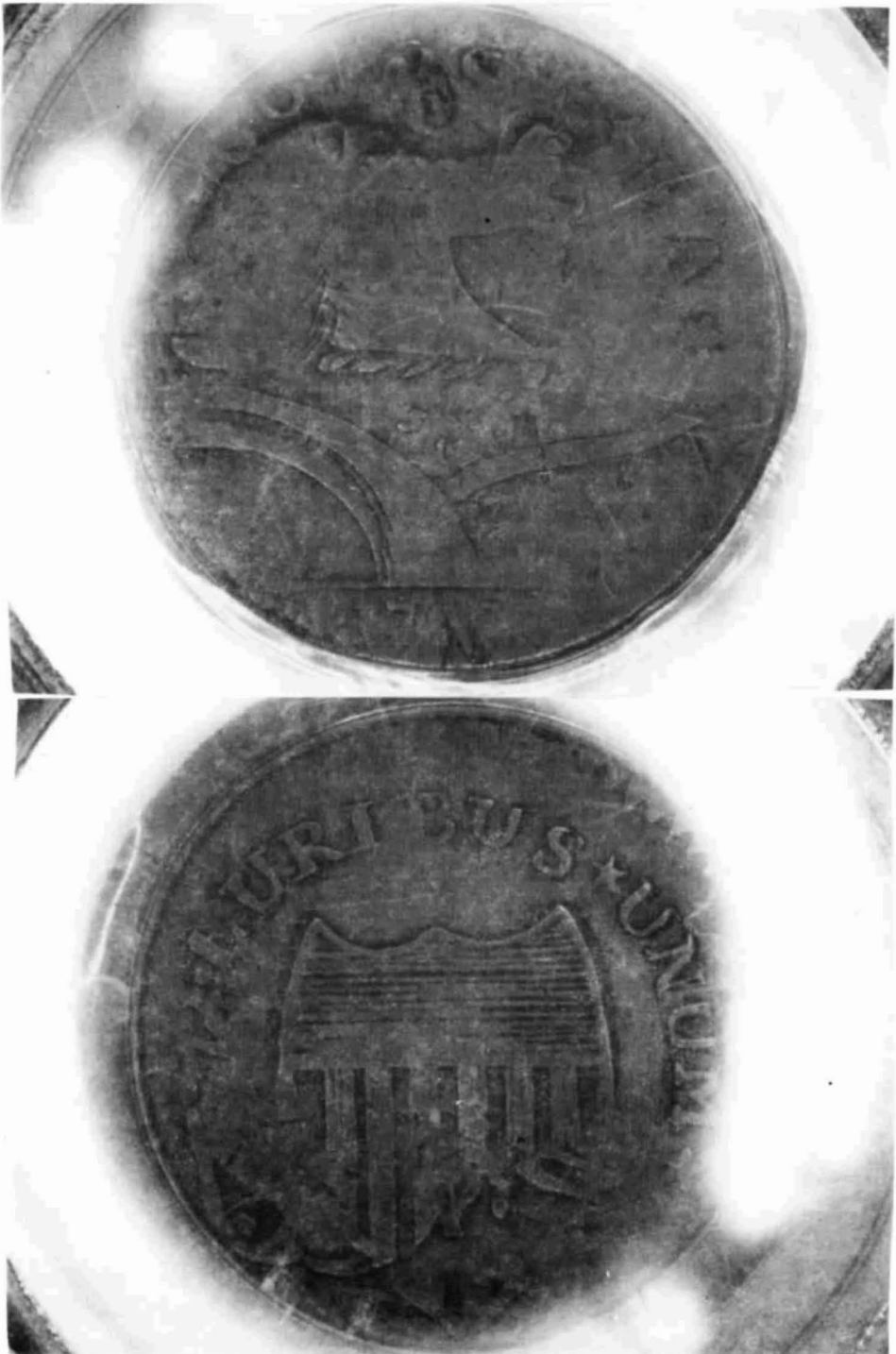


Fig. 1: Misattributed NJ 73-aa

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house such as Heritage to have colonial experts available for such checks. However, the plate provided ample detail to identify what the coin actually was. In spite of my hope that the coin would be a “sleeper” which could be picked up cheaply, others also recognized what the coin actually was.

I didn’t think much more about the coin until it finally arrived in the mail - inside a PCGS slab titled “1787 NJersy, Mint Error, PCGS F15, Double Struck” (see photo). Therefore, not only was the coin misattributed by the cataloger at Heritage, but the encapsulation service, which has been touted as a method for bringing some meaningful systematic credibility to evaluating coins, was dead wrong. This places me in a great quandary. Should I break the coin out of the slab, as I have done in the past, or should I preserve this attribution error for generations to come? I must say that I am leaning toward breaking the slab, since I don’t think the misattribution of colonial coins by third party agencies is going to be much of a rarity.



Carthagenan Captured- Bett’s #83

by Marc Mayhugh

One of the more interesting chapters in C. Wyllys Betts’ work, American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals, is the segment entitled, “the Period of Colonization.” This portion of the book covers the medals of various European countries commemorating their victories, accomplishments and efforts to gain a foothold in the New World. The focus of this brief article is on one of these medals, Betts #83, the French medal honoring the siege and capture of the Spanish stronghold of Carthagenan. As with most of the Betts medals, there is usually a colorful story behind the piece, in this case, one of treasure and piracy.

In 1697, France was at war with most of Europe in the War of the League of Ausburg or as it was known in America, King William’s War. Desperately seeking a way to finance the conflict, King Louis

XIV, and his ministers devised a plan, whereby French regulars would ally themselves with the French buccaneers on the island Saint Domingue, and together attack Carthage. The goal, of course, was the riches of South America. The pirates, long accustomed to raiding Spanish settlements, welcomed the opportunity to again attack the Spanish. They were offered one fifth of the spoils.

Carthage, known as the “Queen of the Indies,” was a well-fortified and formidable objective. However, the French were not to be denied. By isolating the town’s individual forts, they sidestepped their way to the main citadel, and bombarded the town into submission, despite heroic resistance on the part of the Spanish citizenry. A huge ransom was then demanded from the inhabitants. The plunder has been estimated to be between eight and twenty million French Livres and the French claimed that the silver was collected faster than they could count it.

At this point in the enterprise, a rift developed between the pirates and the French command when the pirates claimed their share of the plunder. The French commander, Admiral Pointis, said the pirates were only entitled to one fifth of what the French troops were entitled to, not one fifth of the whole. Being a prudent man, he wisely loaded the treasure and sailed off leaving the pirates with nothing.

The pirates, who had borne the brunt of the fighting, were quite naturally enraged. They reentered the fallen city and extracted another five million livres out of the settlers, looting churches and using torture to persuade the citizens to give up their remaining valuables. Howard Pyle, pirate-artist extraordinaire, vividly recreated this pillage in one of his numerous paintings (see Howard Pyle’s *Book of Pirates*).

Back in France, Louis XIV was overjoyed with the success of the raid. He commissioned Jean Mauger, head mint-master, to issue a series of medals commemorating the event. For the obverse of the medal, Mauger chose only a mediocre head of Louis XIV with the legend “His Most Christian King.” The reverse, on the other hand, is

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quite a different story, being stunning as well as symbolic. Here, a despairing and forlorn maiden slumps against a palm-tree, to her right, an overturned urn spills forth coins representative of the wealth and rape of the Spanish Empire. The reverse legend translates, "The Treasure of the Spaniards Carried away: The American Carthage Taken by Storm, 1697." The medals are struck in gold, silver and copper.

In closing, it is ironic to note that the Treaty of Ryswick, which ended the War of the League of Ausburg, also forever ended the power of the pirates in the Caribbean. Spain held out for and received a special provision calling for an end to piracy on the parts of all nations involved. From this time on, any ship sailing under pirate flag did so at extreme peril. Even though piracy continued to flourish, the sacking of Cartagena proved to be the high-water mark in pirate history. Never again would the buccaneers have the strength or audacity to launch such an undertaking.

References:

- 1- Pyle, Howard: Book of Pirates, p. 164, Harper & Row, 1949
- 2- Wood, Peter: The Spanish Main, in Time-Life Book Series: The Seafarers, Time-Life Books, 1979



A Book Review

by Russell Easterbrooks

Recently I had the good fortune to find a very interesting booklet which may-be of interest to colonial researchers, "*The Journals of Christian Daniel Claus and Conrad Weiser: A Journey to Onondaga, 1750*".

Conrad Weiser was an influential Indian agent, who was sent to try to unite the English colonies with the Six Nations. Christian Daniel Claus was an apprentice who later became friends with the celebrated Indian agent Sir William Johnson. In 1755 he was made a lieutenant

in the Indian department and a deputy secretary of Indian affairs in the colony (New York).

Their journal represents a 1750's view of colonial life in remote settlements. Often describing in great detail, this journey began near Reading Pa. and continued to a point northwest of Albany into the Mohawk Valley.

Also of interest, there is an itemized list of traveling expenses, where mention is made of Pieces of Eight, Pennys(sic) and Talers. Expenses are detailed, such as the cost of a ferry from Loatry's Inn near Albany across the Hudson to the Rosebumb establishment (a merchant) of 1 pound, 2shillings, 9 pence!

There is also an extensive list of Indian words and their meanings. Interesting!

The booklet (60 pages) was published in 1994 by The American Philosophical Society. Library of Congress Card Number 94-70 105



St. Patrick Farthing Report

by John N. Griffiee

By the time New Jersey state coinage contractors were in production, St. Patrick coinage had already been in "circulation" over 100 years. I can't say for sure but I suspect that a farthing in the pocket or purse was, at that time, a "whatsit" coin, a relatively unknown piece with the value negotiable on the down side.

Compared to New Jersey coinage, the farthing is slightly smaller in diameter, thinner. And since most have a brass splasher, I imagine only a coiner extremely desperate for planchets would use a St. Patrick farthing for new products.

Think of this scenario---a New Jersey coiner needs planchets and has bought undervalued state coppers of Connecticut, Vermont and

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miscellaneous British coins. In this mess is a farthing (with a brass splasher on the crown) with the King's side facing down.

Visualize production operations: the screw press is mounted over a pit; the coiner is sitting on the edge of the pit with his feet hanging in the pit and his job is taking a planchet from a pile by his side and placing it quickly on the bottom die. Two men are already pushing the screw press crossbar to press the upper die on the planchet. Upon contact, the coin has been formed, the crossbar is reversed and the coiner quickly flips the hot new coin into the pit. When the pit is so filled that the coiner finds his knees under his chin production is halted and the new coins are shoveled out of the pit into wooden kegs.


Would anyone notice, or take valuable time to look for, a coin that might have a minor defect? I doubt it.

The point of all of the above is, that a St. Patrick farthing "could" be an undertype on a New Jersey state coin!

At the FUN show in Florida last January, an upstate New York colonial collector told me that twenty years ago he remembers owning and selling a Maris 17 with a splasher clearly visible on the undertype.

If this were true, then of the three Maris 17 varieties, my best guess would be a 17b (best known as the *PLUKIBUS variety*). It is known that Maris 17b comes on planchets of "widely differing diameters" and overstruck on other coinage (three B&M auction examples: Garrett, lot 1409; Cohen, lot 2340; and Schenkel, lot 5447).

If anyone owns or knows the whereabouts of this coin, or in fact any coin with a St. Patrick farthing as an undertype, please let me know. I would like to photograph and feature such an unusual example in my soon to be published book on St. Patrick coinage. Thanks for your help.

John M. Griffée, 



St. Patrick Farthing found in New Jersey and is Mark Newby Still Alive?

by Michael J. Wierzba

Mark Newby was a man who lived in Ireland before immigrating to the New World. He was to settle in New Jersey with the Quakers, who would also settle Pennsylvania. He was elected to the West Jersey Assembly and soon after that he was elected to the Governor's Council and to the Commission for Settling and Regulation of Lands. (1) The second Assembly that met from May 2 to May 6, 1682 designed the HALFPENNIES that Mark Newby brought from Ireland to America to be legal tender. There is no mention of St. Patrick farthings. Eric Newman says that evidence shows that only the halfpenny circulated. He used the comment, "The big brother is Irish American and the little brother is just Irish." (2) Recently, a St. Patrick farthing was dug up in New Jersey. Dennis Wierzba purchased it on EBAY as an unidentified coin. The coin is barely identifiable as a St. Patrick farthing. The farthing was dug one foot underground in Greenwich, NJ in March 1999. This dug farthing may show that St. Patrick farthings, along with St. Patrick halfpennies circulated in New Jersey.

On another note, John Griffie reported that the Newby family had died out during a talk on Mark Newby and St. Patrick halfpennies. However, this information was proven false recently. My father and I recently attended a clambake, which was a church fundraiser. After I had left, a neighbor of the family approached my father, and said, "let me introduce you to my friend Mark Newby". Well, my father was surprised and delighted to find out that this Mark Newby was a direct descendant of the Mark Newby that brought the St. Patrick coinage to New Jersey. He knew of some of his family history, and also owned two St. Patrick farthings that were purchased in Ireland. Yes, Mark Newby's family is still alive after 300 years.

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1- Mark Newby: Quaker Pioneer, by David Glafelter. Tams Journal 10/74 reprinted CNL pg. 1118-1 127

2- A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick's Farthing, by Eric Newman. The Numismatist 5/63 pg. 619-622



St. Patrick's Coinage Projects

By John Griffée

There are two projects underway regarding St. Patrick's coinage.

- 1- Stan Stephens (address in front of newsletter under club officers) is preparing a reference listing of all known coins in the hands of US collectors.
- 2- I am working on a book on these coins. It will cover more than you ever wanted to know about St. Patrick's coinage, including early history, facts about Marc Newby, enlargements of all known die varieties (at least 200 or more), and an attribution and rarity guide.

Well-known photographer and copper expert, Bill Noyes, is the official photographer for both of the above projects.

Please help us with these two projects. Let me know if you have any of these coins, even if your collection contains only one of these coins. Stan and I will see how we can have your coin(s) photographed. Bill attends the C4, EAC, and FUN conventions, plus a limited number of additional shows on both the East and West coasts.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John M. Griffée





Unclassified Ads

Ed Sarrafian


Wanted to buy, Machins Mills Coppers!

Varieties: Vlack 4-71C, 9-76B small date, 13-87CT in any grade.

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Bob Merchant,


E-mail: vermont@mindspring.com

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Wanted: Back copies of the C4 Newsletter. Also wanted are back issues of Coin World, Numismatic News, and any other periodical covering US numismatics.

Contact: Harold Thomas



I desire to correspond with anyone who has an interest in the tokens, medals, dies, craftsmanship, biographies, and other aspects of Boston engraver Joseph H. Merriam and Springfield engraver James A. Bolen. Also, I would like to purchase and would pay full retail price for any Bolen colonial copies of different metals and mulings that I do not presently have. Correspondence is invited.

David Bowers



WANTED TO BUY: Talbot, Allum and Lee 1794 cent, No New York in EF or better condition.

Harrell H. Cherry



Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

George Fuld, Sc.D.



Fuld1@home.com



Imitation halfpence coppers (Redbook group I, II and III) in VF to EF condition. All dates wanted.

Please call Min at [REDACTED], or E-mail at Unifilis@aol.com



Wanted, cull to mid-grade:

Virginia halfpennies

Colonial and Continental currency

Also wanted: biographical information on the lesser known signers of Continental and colonial currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have.

David Consolvo



historiccoins@firstva.com



I am currently researching Massachusetts Bay Colony silver coinage. Any information or new thoughts which are not addressed in the



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